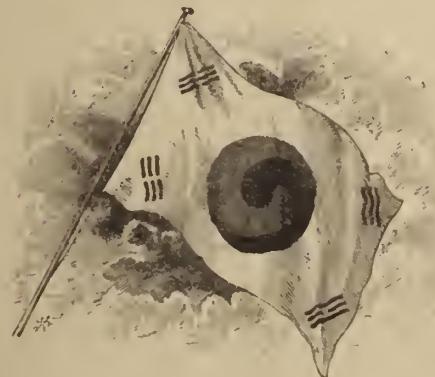


AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL BULLETIN. No. IV.

Corea

The Hermit Nation



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For continued list of Standard School Geographies, see third cover page.

COREA.

THE HERMIT NATION.

Position and Extent.—Corea is a peninsula projecting from the eastern coast of Asia in a southeasterly direction. Its boundaries are all natural, consisting of the Japan Sea on the east, the Yellow Sea on the west, the Corean Strait on the south, and two rivers on the north—the Yalu or Annok, which empties into the Yellow Sea, and the Tumen, which empties into the Sea of Japan. The northern boundary divides Corea from Russia in Asia on the northeast, and from the Chinese provinces of Manchuria and Shing King on the northwest. Corea extends from north latitude 34° to north latitude 43° , a distance of 650 miles. As compared with our Atlantic coast line, it would extend from Portland, Me., to Wilmington, N. C. The average breadth of the peninsula is about 150 miles, and the full coast line extends about 1,700 miles. Its area is estimated to be about 84,000 square miles. It is therefore more than one-third larger than all the New England States, or about the same size as Minnesota or Great Britain.

Comparative Area and Population.—If we compare Corea with Japan and China, and also with the State of Minnesota, and the United States as a whole, as a sort of index or guide, we will be able to appreciate their relative areas, and particularly the great relative density of population of the former countries.

| AREA IN SQUARE MILES. | POPULATION. | POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE. |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Corea | 84,424 | 10,519,000 |
| Japan | 147,629 | 40,072,000 |
| China (Proper) . . . | 1,546,260 | 350,000,000 |
| Minnesota | 83,365 | 1,301,826 |
| United States | 3,668,167 | 62,979,766 |

Its Name.—The name Corea is derived from the name of one of the three provinces into which, before their union, the penin-

sula was divided. The Portuguese transferred this name to the whole country, calling it Coria. The Chinese form of this name is Kaoli, the Japanese Korai. The native and official name of the country is Cho-sen, meaning freshness or serenity of the morning. From this it has received the appellation of the "Land of the Morning Calm."

Physical Features.—There is a marked difference between the eastern and western coasts. The eastern coast is bordered by a long mountain ridge, presenting a high and unbroken wall with but few indentations or harbors. The western coast, which is washed by the Yellow Sea of China, is shielded by an archipelago of islands, between which are shallow and tortuous inlets, either filled or bared by a tide that rises from twenty-five to forty feet, and which are frequently frozen over in winter. The more northern of the islands are low and flat, while the southern ones are high and precipitous. The cliffs of many of these southern islands are both weird and fantastic in shape. One of them resembles in form the towers of Windsor Castle, another the crumbling ruins of a monastery.

The most prominent physical feature of Corea is the mountain range, which constitutes the backbone of the peninsula, and extends through its whole length, from the Tunen River to the Yellow Sea, the large islands on the southwest being but emerging fragments of the same range. From these Corean Apennines, numerous ribs or spurs extend in every direction, inclosing many pleasant valleys and river basins in their devious windings. Another great mountain chain runs transversely across the peninsula, along the northern frontier, thus, by a natural wall, completing the isolation of Corea. The rivers of Corea, while numerous, are comparatively unimportant. Five only are navigable, viz., the Yalu in the north, the Ta-Tong or Pyongyang, the Han and its tributary, the Im-jin-kang, and the Naktong. The longest river within the peninsula is the Naktong, which flows southward between mountain ranges, and empties into a bay opening into the Corean Strait. The largest river, and commercially the most important, is the Han, which, draining nearly the whole breadth of the peninsula, empties into the Yellow Sea. Besides these, eight other broad streams, after enriching the valleys of western Corea, empty into the same sea.

Climate.—The general climate of Corea closely resembles that of our North Atlantic coast, the extremes, however, being more

marked and intense. It is, at times, very hot during the summer months, the temperature ranging from 96° to 100° in the shade. The winters are severe, the mercury being often below zero. The Tunen River on the northern boundary is usually frozen five months of the year, while in winter deep snows cover the mountains. From the end of January until June it is spring. During the summer months there are heavy rainfalls. By the end of November winter begins. In the summer months dense fogs prevail, and in spring and autumn there is much mirage.

Natural Resources.—The coast hills consist mainly of trap rock and granite, covered with a reddish clay of a very light and porous nature. The peninsula abounds in minerals, such as gold, silver, copper, lead, and coal. The aspect of the country from the coast to the capital, though varied by hill and valley, is bare and uninteresting. This is largely due to the scarcity of trees, the only kind that seems to flourish being a stunted pine resembling a Scotch fir. The valleys are fertile, but only moderately cultivated. Rice seems to be the principal crop; next to it comes millet, then beans and barley. Large quantities of red pepper chilis, castor-oil plant, large white radishes, cabbage, and some cotton are grown. Mulberry trees are both indigenous and cultivated in Corea. Gourds are trained over the roofs of the huts, and the lotus flower, tiger-lilies, asters, and some tropical plants are cultivated.

Animals.—In the northern forests tigers of the largest size abound. They are so common that the Chinese have a saying: "The Coreans hunt the tiger during one half of the year, while the tiger hunts the Coreans during the other half." The leopard is also common. The deer and the hog both run wild. In the north, hares, foxes, badgers, wildcats, wild boars, sables, ermines, and otters are found in the mountains. In the south, monkeys are found, and alligators and salamanders abound in the streams. The breed of horses is short and stunted. Cattle and oxen are common, but goats are rarely found. The most common birds are wild geese, swans, ducks, and the plover, pheasant, falcon, eagle, crane, and stork. The varieties of domestic fowls are chickens, geese, and ducks. All resemble our ordinary barnyard fowls, except that the geese of Chinese origin have upon the head, just above the bill, a large yellow knob or comb. Different varieties of fish are found in the rivers and along the coast.

Inhabitants.—The Coreans undoubtedly belong to the Mongolian race, occupying an intermediate stage between the Mongolian Tartars and the Japanese. They are plainly distinguishable from either the Chinese or Japanese. Their language is of the Turanian family, with the addition of many Chinese and some Japanese words. From this arises the different names (noticeable on maps of Corea) applied to the same locality or physical feature, one being in Japanese, another in Chinese, and still another in the Corean language. The Chinese language is used by the upper and lettered classes, and also by the government in all official communications. The population of Corea is not definitely known, no formal or official census ever having been taken. The Japanese estimate the population of Corea at 12,000,000 inhabitants, but the best authority* places the population at 10,519,000.

In physical appearance, the Coreans resemble the Japanese more than the Chinese, though, on the average, taller and stouter than either. Their dress is almost uniformly of white cotton cloth, which in winter is well padded. The outer badge of the official classes is the hat, which is of striking amplitude. The houses of the Coreans are usually rude, thatched, mud-wattled structures. They are generally warmed by flues running beneath the floors. The women's apartments are secluded with intense jealousy. As individuals, they possess many attractive characteristics, the upper classes being polite, cultivated, and priding themselves on correct deportment; while the lower classes are very social among themselves, vivacious and talkative. In their habits they are neither industrious nor cleanly, and though surrounded by abundant natural resources, live in a depth of squalor unknown in civilized lands.

One of the most striking traits of the Coreans is their impersonality. They seem to have no very clear idea of their own *ego*, and this quality runs through everything. The effect is seen in their actions, affections, pleasures, business life, and even their language. In their speech they have but recently learned to discriminate between the three persons, and do so now only by strange circumlocutions. To the original Tartar mind “I,”

* “Die Bevölkerung der Erde,” by Wagner and Supen. Gotha, 1891. This authority is used in the compilation and revision of all tables of areas and populations of foreign countries for Appleton's, Barnes's, Eclectic, Guyot's, Harper's, Monteith's, Niles's, and Swinton's school geographies.

“you,” and “he” were not recognized. Woman in Corea holds a very low position in the social scale. She is not allowed to have a name after she is grown, but is known as the “daughter,” “sister,” or “wife” of this or that person, as it may be. The children are extremely quaint and pretty, especially when young. Every unmarried person is treated as a child. The badge of single or married life is the hair; before marriage the youth wears his hair hanging down his back; in wedlock the hair is worn in a knot on the top of the head.

Government. Corea is an absolute monarchy, its head, the King, being in theory, absolute, hereditary, and divine. The present King of Corea, Li Hsi, is the twenty-eighth sovereign of the reigning dynasty. Theoretically, under the present dynasty, official positions are open to all who can pass the civil service examinations. This system has been borrowed from the Chinese. The government is carried on through ministers of the home office. There are six departments—ceremonies, war, civil affairs, justice, public work, and finance. Corea's revenue is fluctuating, and is paid chiefly in grain. All transportation and the post-office are in the hands of the Japanese, while the telegraphs are under the control of the Chinese, as well as the customs revenue. Some of the important offices in the government and army are held by Americans.

In the way of government Corea needs radical reforms of all kinds. The country is cursed by a system of public administration for which it would be difficult to find a parallel. Corruption extends throughout every branch of the public service. Offices are bought and sold, and the collecting of the revenues is given out to the highest bidder, and yet the public treasuries are empty. The people may be divided into two classes—the *Yangban*, composed of officials who cannot work without losing caste, and the masses, who have to furnish the means for their rulers to live upon, and are compelled to practically steal enough from their own earnings to keep themselves. This misgovernment and oppression is the dark pall overhanging the country and paralyzing the energies and industries of the people.

Political Subdivisions and Cities.—For administrative purposes, Corea is divided into eight provinces, viz., Ham-gyong, Kang-wan, Kyong-sang, Ping-an, Hwang-hai, Kiong-kwi, Chung-chong and Chol-la. The first three provinces named are situated on the east coast fronting the Japan Sea, while all the others

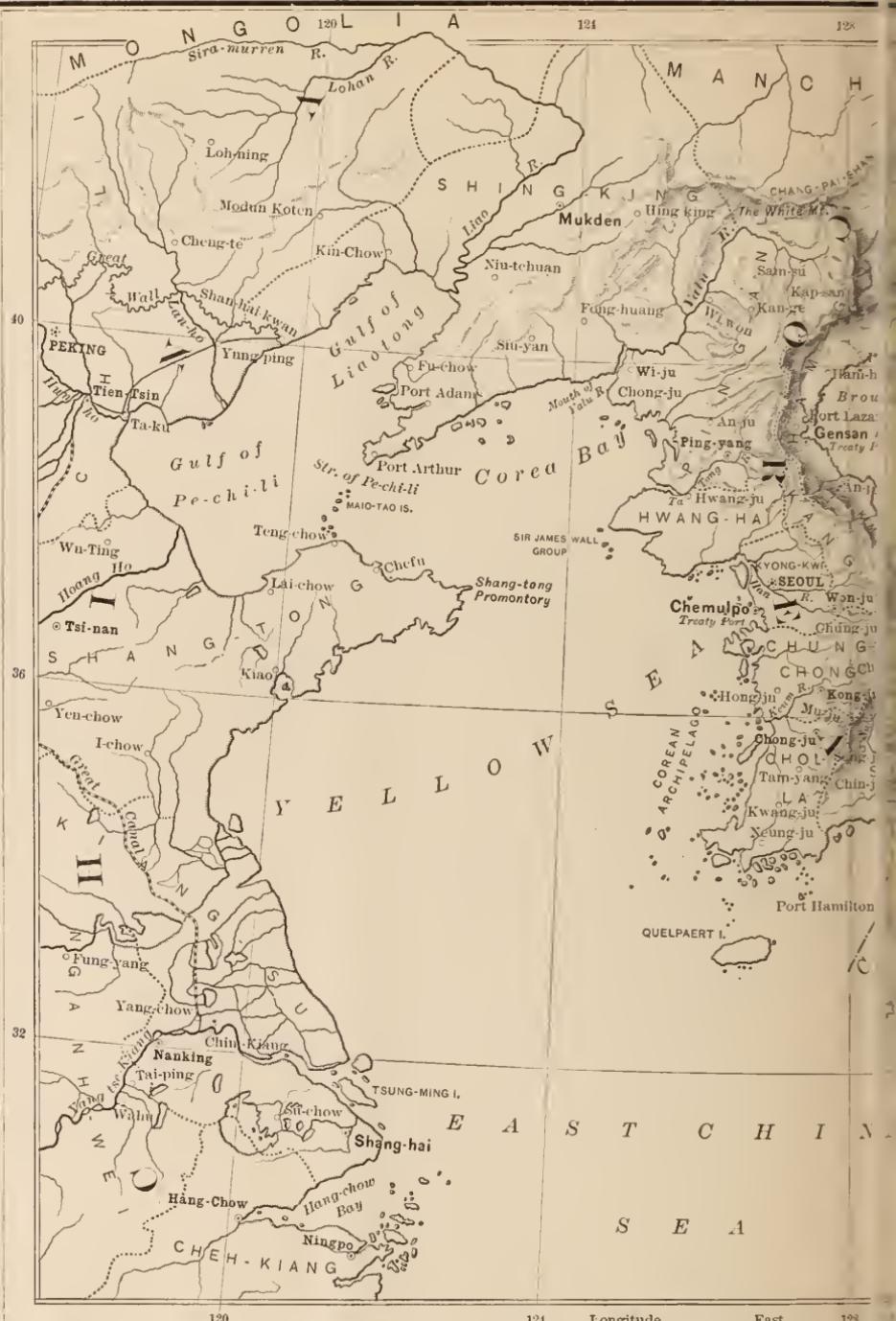
are situated on the western slope, and border on the Yellow Sea. In the central province of Kiong-kwi is located the Seoul or capital of the kingdom. It is situated about twenty-six miles inland from the west coast, and about three miles from the Han River. The city is located in a picturesque valley, between high hills. On the south is a notable height called Nan-san, on the summit of which are four beacon towers, from which, by means of burning signals, messages are transmitted to other similar towers on high mountain peaks and thus to the most distant provinces of the kingdom. Like all other large cities of Corea, it is walled, and the gates, eight in number, are opened at sunrise, and closed at sunset. Within the walls of the city is a population of about 250,000. The houses are generally rude mud-thatched structures, a part of which is used as a shop, or for business purposes. These are so crowded together as to narrow the thoroughfare into mere lanes or alleys, there being but three streets in the city deserving the name. The public buildings are few and insignificant, but as usual in Eastern capitals, there is a large number of royal palaces and temples, which are surrounded by extensive park-like grounds. The buildings and grounds of the foreign legations are conspicuous features in the center of the city.

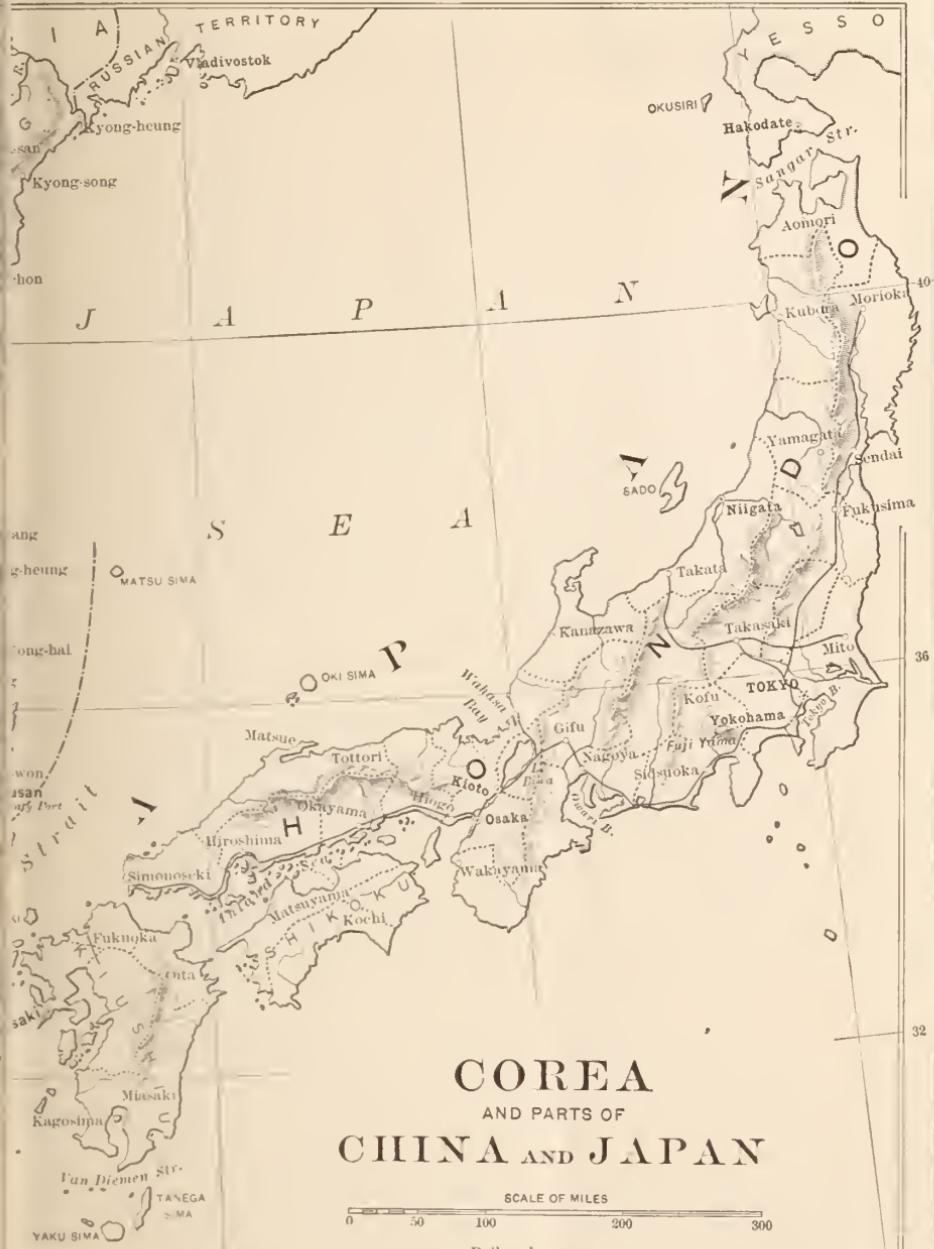
Among the most important places in Corea, especially to foreigners, are the three treaty ports of Fusan, Gensan, and Chemulpo. Fusan is on the southeast coast, opposite and within sight of the Japan Islands of Tsushima (the Twins). Fusan, being the port nearest Japan, has a Japanese population of over 11,000, and is the principal commercial port of Corea. Gensan is situated on the eastern coast, midway between Fusan and the Russian naval port, Vladivostok, on a remarkable inlet, called from the British navigator who first surveyed it, in 1797, Broughton Bay. Chemulpo is upon the western coast, at the mouth of the southern branch of the river Han, and is the port of the capital. Since the opening of these ports Corea has stipulated for the opening of another treaty port, Yang-hwa-chin, on the river Han, as a river port for the capital, and it is expected that other ports on the coast will soon be opened to foreign trade and intercourse. Port Lazareff, on the eastern coast, near Gensan, has long been coveted by the Russians for a naval port. Suntow, the ancient capital of Corea, is an important commercial city of the interior. Pieng-yang, in the north, among the moun-

tains, was also one of the ancient capitals of Corea. It was here that the Japanese captured a large Chinese army and gained the first great victory of the present war.

Industries and Productions.—Notwithstanding Corea has vast tracts of virgin land, with a soil of more than ordinary fertility, and an invigorating climate, it is a poor agricultural country, though rich in possibilities. Rice, beans, and barley are the principal cereals grown. Corean rice is highly esteemed in Japan, and when its export is prohibited the Japanese are much incensed. Ginseng is one of the principal productions, and is exported in large quantities to China. Corea also supplies great quantities of beef and fish to Japan. Paper is the most remarkable native manufacture. It is made from different materials, though usually from the inner bark of the mulberry tree. It is used in Corea for almost every conceivable purpose. After it has been soaked in oil it becomes exceedingly durable and waterproof. It is used instead of carpets on the floors, instead of paint on the walls, instead of glass in the windows, and instead of whitewash on the ceilings. Clothes, hats, shoes, umbrellas, lanterns, fans, and kites are made of it. Houses are divided into rooms by paper partitions; clothes are kept in paper chests; men travel with paper trunks; children play with paper toys. Another kind of paper is manufactured from cotton wool, which is highly prized in China and Japan. When split into layers, it is used for coat linings, and when fifteen thicknesses are sewed together, it makes a sort of armor, which will resist even a musket-ball.

Fish are taken in great quantities by the Japanese on the eastern coast, but the government derives no benefit therefrom. The state reserves to itself exclusive monopoly of the mines, which are worked by the natives, without machinery or modern appliances. Nearly all the iron that is used for agricultural and domestic purposes is of native production, the ore being taken from shallow pits in the ground, and smelted in charcoal furnaces. The natives are skillful metal workers, and it is claimed that from them the Japanese and Chinese acquired their fine art in working metals, porcelains, and woods, which now distinguish those countries. It is also claimed that for many ages Corea alone knew the secret of manufacturing porcelain. At the present day, however, the more useful arts are in a very backward state.





**COREA
AND PARTS OF
CHINA AND JAPAN**

SCALE OF MILES

0 50 100 200 300

Railroads

Bradley & Poates, Engr's, N.Y.

The total value of foreign trade now reaches nearly ten million dollars annually, according to the customs service statistics at the three treaty ports. The actual trade, however, is much greater than this amount, as no account has been taken of the trade at non-treaty ports, or of that on the Russian and Chinese frontiers, or of the undervaluation of imports. The staple exports are gold, silver, iron, ginseng, rice, beans, and other cereals, fish, hides, bones, raw silk, cotton, bamboo, paper, furs, tobacco, shells, varnishes, oils, etc. As might be expected in a country which has until within recent years rigidly maintained its character as the "Hermit Nation," its trade and commerce with foreign countries is still in its infancy. It has been hindered by almost insuperable obstacles, as governmental restrictions, the lack of communications between the interior and the coast, as well as by a debased currency, and the apathy and poverty of the people. The trade in the interior is practically shared by the Chinese and Japanese, between whom there is the most active competition. The Japanese have the virtual command of the maritime and export trade, over ninety per cent of which is to their country.

Education.—The Coreans have no system of education or literature worthy of the name, the masses being unlearned even in their own tongue. The upper classes are lettered in a degree, but even with them reading and writing constitute education. Penmanship is an art much prized, and is widely practiced as in Japan. The Corean child begins his education by learning the native alphabet or script of twenty-five letters, which was first promulgated by royal decree A.D. 1447, and is still used by the lower orders; and the Corean syllabary, which gives a phonetic value to some two hundred and fifty Chinese ideographs in common use, and which was invented by a famous scholar or priest eleven hundred years ago. This syllabary is not analyzed, but committed to memory from sight and sound. Spelling is nearly an unknown art, as the vowel changes and requirements of euphony are quickly acquired by ear and example in childhood. Copies for children are printed from wooden blocks in a very large type. At the right side of each character is its pronunciation in Corean, and on the left the equivalent Corean word. The sound is first learned, then the meaning, and finally the sense of the passage. Like nearly all Asiatics they study aloud at the top of their voices, in a manner to nearly deafen the listener. Most of their

scholars read with ease the classics of the Chinese literature, as their culture is based on Chinese classics and philosophy. Etiquette is rigidly attended to, but mathematics and science receive slight attention.

If a lad is to follow ordinary occupations, he usually learns no more than the most familiar Chinese characters for numbers, points of the compass, weights, measures, and the special technical terms necessary for his own business. If he belongs to the upper classes, and aspires to government service, he begins early the study of the "true letters." First he studies the work entitled the "Thousand Character Classics." In it no character is repeated, and all the verses are in two couplets, making four to a clause. Meanwhile, the brush-pen is kept busily employed, until the whole text of the author is mastered by ear, pen, and memory. In this manner the other classics are committed. Passages are expounded by the teacher, and the commentaries are consulted. Essays on literary themes are written, and a style of elegant composition in prose and verse is striven for.

The candidates for the subordinate offices of the government are examined in their respective provinces; those who aspire to higher positions take their diplomas to Seoul, where they must pass the national examinations. The men who apply for this last examination range in age from the youth to the gray-headed grandfather. The examinations consist of essays and oral and written answers to questions. Nominally every government post in Corea is given by competitive examination. In reality the examinations consist of little more than the composition of an essay, and are, as civil service examinations in China, a farce, as the posts are given to those who pay for them, the prices being as a general rule matters of previous arrangement and knowledge.

Religion.—Spirit-worship and Confucianism are the basis of the faith of the Coreans. They worship the invisible powers of the air, the spirits of earth and heaven: they believe in genii of hills, rivers, and caves, and especially reverence the morning star. The breezes are thought to be the "breath of spirits," and a tempest is a "devil wind" raised by a demon for mischief.

Many centuries ago Buddhism was the faith and popular cult in Corea; but it has been long since overthrown and displaced, except in remote mountain districts where old Buddhist monasteries are still found, and a few monks perform their mechanical

devotions before gilded images of Bnddha, in which they themselves, in common with their countrymen, have long ceased to believe. No Buddhist monks are now allowed inside the cities, a prohibition which is said to have originated in the Japanese invasion three hundred years ago, when the invaders crept into some of the towns in monastic disguise. Among the upper classes the only form of religion is ancestor worship, developed by familiarity with Confucianism, and by long connection with the Chinese. A man of the ruling class has no higher ambition than to leave male descendants who may worship his *manes*, and offer sacrifices at his grave. Besides these oriental faiths, there exist no general religious forms or beliefs among the masses, save that of spirits and the invisible forces of nature, which they ignorantly worship; and it has become literally true as the old Dutch navigator put it: "As for religion, the Coresians have scarcely any."

The history of Christianity in Corea is remarkable and even marvelous. It has been introduced twice in that country, first about the close of the sixteenth, and the second time near the close of the eighteenth century. Its first teachers and converts in Corea were utterly exterminated, but Christianity was again re-introduced in a most remarkable manner. Some Chinese religious tracts had been brought from Peking, among which were some expositions of the Christian religion by French Catholic missionaries, who had established stations in China. A number of Corean students being engaged in a critical study of the text of Confucius found these tracts. One of their number espoused the Christian faith, and became a prominent teacher of its doctrines. He was soon joined by friends, and in this singular way Christianity was again planted in Corea. Afterwards, missionaries went from China to Corea, where they have ever since labored, encountering at times much opposition and persecution, it being estimated that between 1864 and 1870, eight thousand native Christians sealed their faith with their lives. Within a more recent period, British and American Protestant missions and schools have been established, and Corea bids fair to become one of the chosen missionary fields of reformed Christianity.

History.—Corea claims an historical antiquity contemporaneous with that of Egypt, Assyria, and Chaldea, but there are no records, monuments, or ruins, to mark its early history, which

is enveloped in mystery and is largely traditional. The Coreans claim as their first king, Ki Tsze, who came with his followers from China more than a thousand years before the Christian era, conquered the aborigines, and founded a kingdom, which they named Cho-sen. His descendants for forty-one generations ruled the country, when their kingdom was overthrown by the Chinese and Manchurians.

From the Christian era until the tenth century, the country was divided into three kingdoms, named respectively, Kokorai, Hiaksai, and Shinra. The history of these kingdoms is that of almost continuous wars among themselves, and with China and Japan. Like England, Scotland, and Wales, these three Corean kingdoms were distinct in origin, were conquered by a race from without, struggled in rivalry for centuries, and were finally united in one nation. This unification was accomplished by Wang-ken, who conquered the entire peninsula, united all the parts in one kingdom and restored the ancient name of Cho-sen. The Wang dynasty lasted for thirty-two kings, who were mostly both cruel and arbitrary.

Near the close of the fourteenth century, a rebellion arose, and a leader was found in Ni Taijo, a soldier of fortune. The rebellion was successful, and Ni Taijo, under the patronage of the Ming dynasty, raised himself to the Corean throne and established a court and capital at Seoul, which has ever since been maintained. Taijo divided the country into eight provinces. These civil divisions still continue, and are shown on the map.

This outline of Corean history covers a period of nearly three thousand years, marked throughout by ever-recurring invasions, rebellions, and changes of dynasties and kingdoms, too numerous to mention or describe. The principal events of Corea's modern history are connected with invasions of her territory by the Chinese and Japanese, and her constant efforts to maintain her own autonomy and sovereignty against both. The Japanese invaded Corea in 1592 and again in 1598. The invading army employed firearms as weapons, which were then used for the first time by them, and were unknown to the Coreans. After six years of war, in which the peninsula was desolated from end to end, China came to the assistance of Corea, the Japanese retired, and peace was restored. When the Manchurian Tartars invaded China, they devastated and subdued Corea on their way. The native Ming dynasty of

China, to which Corea had always been warmly attached, was overthrown in 1628, and the Tartar or Manchu dynasty was established in China, where it still continues to reign. From the time of the Manchu invasion to the present, Corea has been more or less subject to China. Though Corea has always claimed to be an independent nation and has been ruled by her own monarchs for centuries, there has scarcely been a time since the commencement of the Christian era when it has not acknowledged a greater or less dependence upon either China or Japan. The claims of Japan were earliest in origin, and have been exercised over a longer period of time. From the third down to the end of the fourteenth century the relations between the two countries have been, as a rule, those of Japanese ascendancy and Corean allegiance. The ascendancy of China in Corea practically dates from the foundation of the present reigning dynasty, and is largely due to common relations, customs, and religion, as well as territorial connection.

The most striking fact manifested in the past history of Corea is the national policy of almost complete isolation and non-intercourse with other nations of the world. In this indisposition to intercourse with other countries, the Coreans have been greatly assisted by the physical environment of their country, surrounded as it is on three sides by ocean waters, with but few safe landings or harbors, and separated from the Asiatic continent by an inhospitable mountain barrier. Notwithstanding the national policy of this seagirt and hermit nation has for ages steadily resisted the rising tide of progress and civilization, she has at last been compelled to open her gates, both by sea and land, to social, commercial, and political intercourse with other nations and peoples. This great revolution in the customs of the people and the policy of the government has only been inaugurated within a recent period. It is only eighteen years since the first foreign treaty was made by Corea, as an independent sovereignty, with any foreign power. Just as our own country sent a mission under Commodore Perry in 1854 to Japan and negotiated a treaty by which she opened her ports and country to the world, so Japan sent a mission to Corea in 1876, and, following the exact methods of procedure as Commodore Perry in his negotiations with their own country, they secured a treaty of peace and commerce with Corea by which certain ports were opened to Japanese trade. The first article of this first treaty with any

foreign nation is the keynote of a new governmental policy by Corea: "Cho-sen, being an independent state, enjoys the same sovereign rights as does Japan."

The present war between China and Japan is another illustration of history repeating itself. Corea has again become the bone of contention and cause of war between those ancient nations. As Corea has been the roadway through which China and Japan have passed to attack each other in the past, so her territory has again become the field of invasion and conflict. The immediate causes of the present war are the rival claims of China and Japan to the suzerainty of Corea. Within the past fifteen years, China has by turns disclaimed all authority over Corea, and reasserted her ancient claim that Corea was a tributary Chinese province. In the Tien-Tsin convention of 1885 between China and Japan, there was a distinct disavowal on the part of China of any suzerain rights over Corea, and a mutual agreement by both countries that neither would interfere by force of arms in the internal affairs of Corea without notifying the other. Early in 1894 an insurrection broke out in Corea which its government was not able to suppress. China sent a body of troops to Corea without giving any notice to Japan of her intention or purposes. The Japanese government objected to this, and at the same time made a proposal for united action, with the object of effecting thorough reforms in Corea, saying:

"On account of its geographical situation, the ever-increasing disorders in the Corean kingdom materially affect the vital interests of both China and Japan, and threaten to create a dangerous crisis; therefore, Japan proposes, in concert with China, to persuade Corea to introduce thorough reforms in her internal government, so that all danger of future disorders may be avoided; and, in thus acting, Japan's object is purely to promote the independence of Corea and maintain peace in the East."

China claims that the present war was brought about by the aggressiveness of Japan in forcing radical reforms in Corea, for which that country was not prepared, and to which China as its suzerain objected. On the other hand, Japan claims that all her relations toward Corea are friendly, and that her primary object in the present war is not to fight Corea or even China, but to secure the independence and development of Corea, and maintain her territory intact against the encroachments of Russia, China, or any other country.

As the occurrences of the present war are familiar to every reader of the newspapers, it is not necessary to repeat or describe them here. Every observer of the important events now occurring in the far East, affecting, as they necessarily must, the physical and moral interests of great empires and vast populations, will be deeply interested in the far-reaching results of this war, and will sincerely join the friends of human progress and liberty in sympathy and hope that the little kingdom in "the Land of the Morning Radiance" may become more firmly established among the nations of the earth, and that her people, now struggling into light, may enter upon a new era of national progress and development.

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